Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /057 W

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R 231255Z NOV 77 FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7524 AMEMBASSY DACCA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 16650

FOLLOWING RECD FROM CALCUTTA SENT NEW DELHI, BOMBAY, MADRAS, DATED NOVEMBER 23, BEING RPTD FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CALCUTTA 2532

E.O. 11652: NA TAGS:PGOV, PINT, IN SUBJECT: 1977 NAGALAND ELECTION OUTCOME

1. THE JANATA-LINKED UDF (UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF NAGALAND) HAS WON 35 OUT GF THE 60 SEATS IN THE STATE ASSEMBLY. POLLING TOOK PLACE NOVEMBER 18, AND RESULTS WERE ANNOUNCED NOVEMBER 21. CONGRESS WON 15 SEATS, THE NEWLY FORMED NATIONAL CONVENTION OF NAGALAND GOT ONEN AND INDEPENDENTS TOOK NINE.

2. THESE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS END THE PRESIDENT'S RULE FOR NAGALAND'S 600,000 PEOPLE WHICH HAS BEEN IN EFFECT SINCE MAY 1975. IT IS EXPECTED THAT MR. VIZOL WILL BE CHOSEN UDF LEADER AND THUS CHIEF MINISTER. THE ELECTION WAS UNMARRED BY VIOLENCE, AND VOTER PARTICIPATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WAS REPORTEDLY HIGH-UPWARD OF 75 PERCENT IN MANY AREAS. IT WAS NOTED WITH INTREST THAT NO RECENT INTER-PARTY DEFECTORS, OR "AISLE-CROSSERS", WERE RE-ELECTED TO THEIR SEATS

3. ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT CLEAR BEFOREHAND THAT UDF WOULD DO AS WELL AS IT DID, ITS VICTORY IS NOT A GREAT

SURPRISE. THE PARTY WAS PROBABLY STRENGHTENED BOTH BY THE RECENT VISIT TO NAGALAND OF GEORGE FERNANDES, WHICH BESTOWED THE JANATA BLESSING UPON IT, AND BY THE BRIDGES IT KEEPS OPEN TO ANTI-GOI NAGAS, IN CONTRAST TO THE RELATIVE ANTI-REBEL HARD-LINGING OF THE NAGALAND CONGRESS (FORMERLY NAGALAND NATIONALIST ORGANIZATION).

4. IT STRIKES US THAT FEW IF ANY CONCLUSIONS
CONCERNING NATIONWIDE JANATA-CONGRESS POLITICS
SHOUJLD BE BASED ON THIS OUTCOME OF THE
KALEIDOSCOPIC AND HEAVILY CLAN-INFLUENCED POLITICS
OF A FRONTIER STATE, WHERE IT IS AN EVIDENT
GROUND RULE THAT ELECTED OFFICIALS SHARE MUCH OF THEIR
POWER WITH ADMINISTRATORS RESPONSIVE TO NEW DELHI. PERKINS UNQUOTE
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

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